

The Polk County Observer

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(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 19

CLUB HEAD UNCHANGED

MRS. METZGER RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZATION

Annual Meeting of Dallas Woman's Club Names Officers and Committees for Year.

(By Mrs. Gilbert P. MacGregor.) Club business occupied the attention of the few members present at the open May meeting held on Tuesday, the fourth. It was decided that the June, the "social" meeting, should be given over to entertaining the invited guests from the clubs of Salem, Monmouth, Sheridan, and McMinnville. The program will consist of speakers from the invited clubs, and Dallas will furnish the music. The Young Women's section will be drawn upon for their selections. Refreshments and a social hour will close the afternoon's entertainment. The three committees appointed for this undertaking are as follows: Depot, Mrs. H. H. Woods, Mrs. Van Orsdel, Mrs. Oscar Hayter; social, Mrs. Craven, Mrs. Loughary, Mrs. Robinson, to confer with the standing social committee of the club; decorating, Mrs. I. L. Smith, Mrs. Tracy Staats, Mrs. John Orr. The president informed the club that the city council requested a choice of the club to be voted upon as city inspector, but after discussion the club found it had no candidate.

This May meeting is always the meeting for the election of club officers. Dallas stands out in the club world as a unique exception to the rule of fighting for offices. Knowing their attitude of the club from past experience, Mrs. Metzger called the vice-president to the chair and addressed the club from the floor. She said that there was not a woman in the club who was not capable of serving as executive and that if the club was to continue and prosper the members would have to realize that loyalty and a willingness to serve were two requisites for an organization's life and growth. It was a necessary word spoken in season and the women present took the matter home to themselves. Mrs. Metzger said the club could not live without officers and that the prompt declining to hold office was not seemly or encouraging. A few over-worked women had so far carried on the club and it was time to have new blood in the work.

Upon resuming the chair, the president called for the reports beginning with the music section. This was followed by Mrs. Casey, chairman of the literary section, who gave an outline of the year's work, "The Modern Drama." Ibsen, Rostand, Maeterlinck, Galsworthy, Pinero, were among the names of the dramatists studied. The course has been interesting and instructive.

Mrs. Van Orsdel, chairman of the civic section, gave her report upon the meetings held from January to July. Not very much work has been accomplished this year although a new feature has been introduced that promises good things: the civic silver teas. There have been two so far, the first one with Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Barnes as hosts, the second, with Mrs. George Gerlinger and Mrs. MacGregor. The money result from these two teas is \$12.05. This section will finance the installation of a drinking fountain on the library grounds. The grounds are under the care of the section and they present a tidy and good appearance. Also this section has donated and placed in position in the public park, tables for the use of picnickers. Through the retiring mayor and council the section has secured the passage of an ordinance forbidding expectorating in public places. During the present club year a lecture was given in the high school auditorium by two Portland officials upon school gardens.

Mrs. Robinson, treasurer, gave the following figures: Upon assuming office she found \$149.15 in the treasury, during the year \$311.12 was added, making a total of \$460.27. Vouchers for \$388.81 have been issued leaving a balance of \$71.45.

Miss Collins, secretary, said that there were 87 paid up members, 21 have resigned, nine moved out of town, 20 have not responded to communications as to back dues. Mrs. Metzger, Mrs. Allgood, Miss Rosstier, and Mrs. H. H. Woods will read their reports at the next meeting.

The election of officers resulted in the following names: President, Mrs. Ella J. Metzger; vice-president, Mrs. Tracy Staats; treasurer, Mrs. D. M. Patterson; secretary, Mrs. Walter Ford. Chairmen of the four sections: Music, Mrs. A. B. Starbuck; literary, Mrs. B. Casey; civic, Mrs. Conrad Stafrin; young women's, Miss Ednelle Collins. With the announcement from the civic section that the next silver tea would be held at Mrs. S. B. Taylor's home the third Tuesday in May, the motions to adjourn was in order.

The retiring press committee wishes to voice the opinion of the club as to the re-election of Mrs. Metzger as president. Under difficulties of which we are all cognizant, difficulties of family importance that would have excused any woman from again serving as executive, Mrs. Metzger has assumed the directing of the club for another year. It means a constant traveling back and forth from Dallas to McMinnville, constant anxiety and

worry when away from the necessary duties in her father's home. But she is so public-spirited and progressive that she is willing for the sake of the organization to do double duty. As a club and individually we want Mrs. Metzger to be assured of our appreciation and we are eager to let that appreciation be known by standing back of her as a unit in whatever she plans to do.

FAVOR FULL HALF MILE TRACK.

Fair Board May Put Proposition Up to City Council Soon.

Believing that a three-eighths of a mile race course would be unsatisfactory to horsemen, the county fair board at its meeting on Wednesday decided to take the matter up with the council with a view to exchanging the land purchased by the city last year for fair purposes for a tract more suited to the construction of a track, but just how the matter may be worked out remains to be seen. Members of the board visited the fair grounds, and afterwards the Millerhurst tract, arriving at the conclusion that the latter would more satisfactorily fill the bill, it requiring comparatively little grading in building a course, while some extensive excavations would be necessary at the present site. When Engineer Taylor prepared plans for the proposed course, he found it impracticable to construct a half-mile speedway on the fair grounds, but recommended that the course be made three-eighths of a mile, estimating the cost at approximately \$1,100. The board feels that if so large a sum must be expended in excavations and fills, it would be better to trade the tract for one more suited to the purpose, and the question will be taken up with the council at an early date.

Outside of considering this matter the board transacted but little business, other than of the routine order. Plans for the fall exhibit were discussed, and it was reported that from present indications the outlook for the fair is bright.

PICNIC DATE IS NAMED

COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR EVENT AT RICKREALL.

State Superintendent of Schools and Governor Withycombe Will Participate in the Exercises.

At a meeting of those interested in the Rickreall picnic, held at Rickreall, Wednesday night, it was decided to pull off this annual event on Saturday, June 12. This picnic is given under the auspices of the eighth grade graduates of the county and the Artisans of Rickreall, and is generally considered as the big out-of-door event of the season. The following are the committees appointed to make the necessary arrangements: General committee, F. S. Crowley and H. C. Seymour; program, Mrs. Ernest Stetson; sports, John Burch; publicity, John W. Orr; stands, Thos. Burch; grounds, and concessions, O. Waite. State Superintendent of Schools Churchill will deliver the address to the graduates, and Governor James Withycombe will present the diploma. An interesting program will be arranged, announcement of which will be made by the committee within a few days.

IMPROVEMENT BIDS INVITED.

Dallas Will Macadamize Fourteen Blocks and Oil Twenty Miles.

The first street improvement project to be started this summer by the city council will include fourteen blocks of macadamization, together with their intersections and cement curbs, bids for which work are invited by Auditor Gregory in this issue of The Observer. The bidder is given the privilege of making the city a price on all or part of the work.

The council also advertises for bids for oiling approximately twenty miles of streets and avenues within the city, the oil spread to be sufficient to lay the dust throughout the summer season.

YOUNG ENGINEERS ARE HERE.

Agricultural College Students Making Efficiency Test at Big Plant.

The class in electrical engineering from the Oregon Agricultural college arrived in Dallas this morning to make an efficiency test of the Oregon Power company's plant, which work will occupy three or four days. This class is accompanied by several students engaged in experimental work.

Haggling Over Water Rates.

The Independence council believing that the Oregon Power company should furnish the municipality water with which to sprinkle the streets has declined to remunerate the company for the supply, and the question is now being discussed pro and con by the parties interested.

Land Open to Settlement.

Secretary of the Interior Lane recently issued an order which will open to entry on June 10, 1915, under the provisions of the enlarged homestead act, nearly 40,000 acres of non-irrigable land in eastern and central Oregon, principally in Morrow, Crook and Gilliam counties.

BOY COPS IN PARADE.



Photos by American Press Association.

Juvenile police force, feature of police parade in New York April 24. They aid Commissioner Woods (whose portrait is shown above) in keeping order on the east side.

MORE HONOR FOR POLK INDULGE IN A DEBATE

SUPT. AND MRS. SEYMOUR TO CHAPERONE PARTY TO EXPO.

Winners of Grand Prizes in State Industrial Exhibit Will Leave for Frisco Fair in June.

The announcement was made late Wednesday night that Superintendent and Mrs. H. C. Seymour had been selected to chaperone the ten boys and girls from different parts of the state who won the grand prizes in the industrial exhibit at the state fair last fall to the Panama-Pacific exposition, and they will probably leave with the party of young people about June 20. Those pupils who will go from Polk county are Francell Hawley of Bethel, Jessie Key of Perrydale, May McDonald of Dallas and Homer Bursell of Mistletoe.

The state educational department offered as capital prizes in ten industrial projects ten trips, with all expenses paid for a week, to the San Francisco fair, and of the number Polk county won four. It enjoys the distinction of having the only girl winners. The six other winners are from Lane, Clackamas, Marion and Jackson counties, the latter sending two.

Another Cheese Factory.

The farmers of the Grand Ronde section of Polk county have organized a co-operative company there and erected a building 25x40 to be used as a cheese factory. The structure has been completed and the machinery will be installed within a fortnight. The officers of the temporary organization are H. Norgard, president; John Langley, vice-president; O. E. Leirman, treasurer; John Talbot, secretary; G. K. Walker, R. A. Leirman and John Fairbrother, trustees. The factory is located at the new townsite of Lacey, one and a half miles south of Grand Ronde, and will have about forty patrons.

Hops and Fruit Injured.

The recent hail and wind storms, combined with several nights of frost, have caused considerable damage to fruit and hops in this locality, but not as much as had first been feared. Prunes and early berries in exposed orchards were badly hit, but those more favorably located are unhurt. Hops that had been trained in many yards will have to be cut down. This ill not necessitate total loss, but only loss of the labor already expended in training and a couple of weeks' delay in ripening, as the plants will send up new shoots from the roots, which were unhurt.

Some Jitney, This.

Portland parties arrived at Independence yesterday with a jitney with a capacity for thirty passengers. The machine will be run between Salem and that place, a distance of twelve miles. There is already a jitney on this route. Another jitney with a capacity for eighteen passengers just came in from Eugene, but on what route it will be put is not known.

Corvallis vs. Dallas.

The Corvallis high school baseball team will meet the Dallas highs on the college campus tomorrow afternoon, commencing at 2:30. Corvallis will bring thither a strong aggregation, and an interesting contest is in prospect. The home team has not been defeated thus far this season.

Now Doing Business.

The City Steam laundry, an outgrowth of a hand laundry that had been operating here about a year, inaugurated its business career Monday morning with Mr. Hughes at the helm, and has been operating to capacity during the week. This new institution is modernly equipped, and is providing employment to six persons.

COUNTY UNIT PLAN DISCUSSED BY PRINCIPALS' CLUB.

No Decision Rendered, the Object Being Presentation of Both Sides of Important Question.

The Polk County Principals' club held its regular monthly meeting last Saturday. Because of the May day exercises there the meeting was held at Monmouth instead of at Dallas, the customary place of meeting. The banquet and business session were held at the Monmouth hotel and the public meeting in the Normal school chapel. The feature of the evening was a debate on the question, "Resolved, that the county unit plan of administration and control of rural schools would be substituted for the present district plan." The affirmative side was supported by Professors Pitman and Evenden, of the Normal school faculty, and the negative side by Professor Gentile and President Ackerman, of the same school. It was understood that no decision was to be rendered, the purpose of the debate being merely to present the advantages or disadvantages of the proposed system.

Numerous advantages were claimed for the county unit plan, the affirmative asserting that the present system is not in keeping with the spirit of the times; that the county unit plan would provide for equalization of taxes in all districts, and that it would require public service corporations to assist in supporting all the schools of the county; that less money would be wasted; that it would promote the consolidation of districts; that it would permit experts to direct the work of experts; that it would make easier the placing of the right teacher in the right place, and would systematize the selection of teachers; that it would permit a better classification of teachers; and that it would place a premium on the professional growth of teachers.

The negative contended that the affirmative had made numerous claims for the county unit plan without showing how it would secure the results claimed. They admitted, for the sake of argument, weaknesses in the present district plan, but maintained that these could be corrected under the present plan. They also contended that the proposed system would never be adopted by the people of Oregon as it is too undemocratic in principle and places too much power in the hands of a few; that under this plan the county superintendent of schools would become either an autocrat or a political figurehead, and that the election of the educational board would become the most important feature of the county election.

The Monmouth high school chorus and the boys' double quartet from the same school sang several selections which made decided hits with the audience. The last meeting of the club will be held at Dallas on June 5, with a banquet. A committee of three was appointed to arrange for the program and other details.

STUDENTS TAKE TRIP.

Visit Agricultural College and View Work in Various Departments.

Fifty pupils of the Monmouth high school visited the Oregon Agricultural college Tuesday. Chaperoned by Prof. E. L. Keesel and Miss Florence Ross, they went to Corvallis by automobile, nine autos being required to accommodate the contingent. The young people left the Normal school city at 8 o'clock, arriving at their destination about nine-thirty, and after parking the cars among the trees that grace the driveway between the administration building and mechanical hall, the party started on a sight-seeing program that consumed the entire day. They visited many of the build-

ings during the forenoon periods, watched the drilling of the cadets at the noon hour, and at 1 o'clock were divided into two groups and taken to Waldo and Cauthorn halls for dinner. During the afternoon they were busy seeing the shops and laboratories, barns and poultry department.

The party, other than Prof. Keesel and Miss Rees: C. B. Bowman, Gladys Putman, Harry McCoy, D. E. Parke, Earl McNeill, C. C. Powell, Mr. Rogers, Velma Smith, Mrs. Heffley, Marian McDonald, Grace Parker, Mabel Smith, Wilda Fuller, Gertrude Rodgers, Joe Staats, Helen Moore, Laurel Canning, Belle Steinberge, Guy Sacre, Birchard Van Loan, Neta Harver, Alton McClellan, Ibbey Green, Stanley Evans, Perry Powell, Gaynell Shore, Grace Williams, Irene Hagenbush, Elsie Jones, Ruth Wilson, Mr. Smith, H. Gentle, Burton Bell, Gail Hildebrand, Josephine C. Heffley, J. B. V. Butler, Ermine Gentle, Marie Marlan, Gertrude, Heffley, Harold Haley, Stanton Ogsbury, Donald Portwood and Edna Parkes.

Fruit Growers Meet.

The regular monthly meeting of the Polk County Fruit Growers' association was held in the commercial club rooms Saturday afternoon with a large number of members present. President H. C. Eakin presided at the meeting. A general discussion of spraying followed the opening of the session and much valuable information was gained. A report by the members of the amount of damage done by frosts the past week varied. In some localities the damage was far greater than in others. Joe Brown, a fruit grower in the Salt Creek country used smudges Friday night, and thereby saved a greater portion of his prunes.

The Rickreall Picnic.

Although the date for the annual picnic at Rickreall has not been definitely settled upon, the probability is that June 12 will be selected as the time. Arrangements for the event will be more extensive in their scope than on previous occasions.

CASSIUS SIBLEY PASSES

DEATH COMES THIS MORNING AS RESULT OF PARALYTIC STROKE

Once Prominent Lawyer and Newspaper Man Succumbs at Home of J. Sibley—Funeral Arrangements.

Cassius E. Sibley, brother of County Attorney J. E. Sibley, and an uncle of Attorney J. R. Sibley, passed away at the home of the latter at 5 o'clock this morning, the result of a third stroke of paralysis, aged 65 years. While seated at the family table at lunch yesterday, Mr. Sibley was stricken, and would have fallen to the floor had not prompt assistance been given. The first stroke was suffered two years ago on the same day of the week and at the same hour. The funeral arrangements have not been perfected at this time, but will probably take place from the chapel Sunday afternoon.

Deceased was a native of Ohio and was born October 23, 1850. When 14 years of age he undertook the publication of a newspaper, succeeding to the business of one of his brothers, who had responded to a call for recruits in the Civil war, and followed this calling for a number of years, after which he was admitted to the bar and practiced law about twenty years. Later he came to the Pacific coast and for a number of years was city editor on The Call at San Francisco. He also held positions of responsibility on other California daily newspapers, coming to Dallas somewhat broken in health six years ago, since which time he resided with his nephew. He was never married, and aside from the relatives named herein his family connections are all in the eastern states.

Militia Seeks Fifty Men.

"Wanted—50 men." This is the sign which has gone up at the recruiting headquarters of the Oregon Naval Militia at Portland. The 50 men are needed to complete the crew for the annual cruise down the Pacific Coast from July 25 to August 9. All members of the Oregon Naval Militia, including those who enlist within the next 20 days, will be taken on the cruise aboard the U. S. S. Albany.

Now, Mr. Speeder, Look Out.

Marshal Chase insists that the speed ordinance must be more strictly adhered to by automobile and motorcycle drivers. Thus far he has been lenient with those who have been exceeding the limit, but having received implicit instructions from Mayor Kirkpatrick to enforce the law, he purposes doing so "without fear or favor."

Complains to Commission.

H. J. Ellis has complained to the state railroad commission that Mulkey, a station between Dallas and Monmouth, is difficult of access and has asked that it be moved three quarters of a mile west.

May Abandon Cherry Fair.

The Cherrians of Salem have abandoned the idea of holding a cherry fair this summer, and calls upon the Commercial club of that city to lend its aid in fostering the annual event.

Remember—Baseball tomorrow

VALLEY AND SILETZ ROAD

RUMOR SAYS WORK WILL BEGIN DURING SUMMER.

Line Between Independence and Airle Would Develop Rich Agricultural Territory.

Notwithstanding the fact that the company's chief engineer has made plain that the proposed railroad from Independence to Airle will not be constructed until the financial condition of the country materially improves, the report goes forth that work on the connecting link will be prosecuted during the present summer. The Capital Journal of Monday has the following concerning the movements of the company, and there is a possibility that that era of prosperity for which the work was waiting has struck. The Observer sincerely hopes that The Journal is correct in its conclusions regarding the commencement of operations, but the two years' franchise asked from Independence would further indicate that there will be no work on the extension this year.

"Unquestionably one of the biggest pieces of development work to be undertaken the coming summer and the one which means more for the Willamette valley than any other one thing in the proposed connecting up of the Valley & Siletz railroad between Independence and Airle and the extension of the line from King's Valley over into the Siletz timber region. The line is already built and in operation between Airle and Kings Valley, one of the richest little valleys in the state, and the right of way is practically secured between Independence and Airle when the construction work will be begun. This year's work will involve an expenditure of about \$300,000.

"R. L. Donald, the man who did the preliminary engineering work and the major portion of the construction work on the Oregon Electric, will have charge of the construction work of the Valley & Siletz. Mr. Donald states that J. L. Hanna, who is in charge of securing the right-of-way between Independence and Airle, a distance of twelve miles, is rapidly closing up the gap and it is expected that the line will be rushed through to completion and put in operation this summer. Further than that Mr. Donald did not care to state.

"From prominent citizens of Independence, who are familiar with the situation, however, it is learned that the road from Airle into Kings Valley taps one of the richest farming regions in Western Oregon and that when the road is connected up with Independence, affording an outlet for the products of that valley, they expect to see some great strides in agricultural development in that section. From Airle it is proposed to extend the line on to the head of the Siletz river in Lincoln county to tap a wonderfully rich body of virgin timber.

"The estimated cost of construction between Independence and Airle is \$300,000, which work will be performed the coming summer, but it is not expected that the road will be extended into the Siletz until the lumber market opens up and the depression in the money market is relieved so as to make it pay to develop the lumber industry in Western Polk and Eastern Lincoln counties at the head of the Siletz. It is understood that the ultimate intention of the promoters of the Valley & Siletz railroad is to extend on from the head of the Siletz to Newport, a distance of about 50 miles, which will afford a short cut from the valley to the seaside and make traveling to and from this popular summer resort, more convenient and much cheaper than the present route."

Many Graduates at O. A. C.

The 241 students who expect to be graduated from the Oregon Agricultural college in June this year, comprise the largest graduating class in the history of the institution. Something of the phenomenal growth may be understood by noting that the coming graduating class will be approximately 376 per cent larger than the last graduating class prior to the present administration of June, 1907. Former graduates of the college number 1456 men and women, distributed in thirty-eight states and eight foreign countries.

Dallas Not Represented.

The Dallas company is not represented at Ft. Stevens this week, where practical training in the use of the big coast defense guns and instruction along various other lines of the military science will be given the representatives of the coast artillery companies of the state who attend the officers' camp of instruction. They have regular army officers as instructors and will be put through the regular routine work, and in addition will be trained in the various methods of attack and defense.

A New Townsite.

G. K. Walker of Bentley was in Dallas on Wednesday and told The Observer that a new townsite had been laid out on Rogue river at the point where the school house is located, and that a store, hotel and blacksmith shop will be built here forthwith. The new town is one and a half miles from the Grand Ronde agency, and will be known as Lacey.